

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04665 231909Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08
AGRE-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01
ICA-11 /070 W
-----031404 240841Z /10

R 231730Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6130
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4665

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJECT: PS-CDS DIFFERENCES OVER AGRICULTURE MINISTRY GROW

REF: LISBON 4499

SUMMARY: THE CDS STATE SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND INDUSTRIES OFFERED HIS RESIGNATION IN A FURTHER BREACH BETWEEN THE CDS AND AGRICULTURE MINISTER LUIS SAIAS. AT MARIO SOARES'S REQUEST, RESOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE HAS BEEN PUT OFF UNTIL NEXT WEEK. THE ISSUE HAS NOW BEEN DRAWN AND THE CDS COULD ONLY BACK DOWN AT A COST TO ITS INTERNAL COHESION. THE AGRICULTURAL ISSUE IS SERIOUS;
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IT DOES NOT YET THREATEN THE GOVERNMENT, BUT MUST BE DEALT WITH SOON. END SUMMARY.

1. BREACH WIDENS: CDS STATE SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND INDUSTRIES ALCINO CARDOSO OFFERED HIS RESIGNATION THIS WEEK AS A RESULT OF AGRICULTURE MINISTER LUIS SAIAS'S DECISION TO REJECT THE RESULTS OF A CARDOSO-

COMMISSIONED INVESTIGATION OF THE CEREALS INSTITUTE.
THE CDS SECRETARIAT DECIDED TO BACK CARDOSO; AND CENTER
DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL MET JUNE 22
WITH PRIME MINISTER MARIO SOARES TO PUSH FOR REVERSAL OF
SAIAS'S CEREALS INSTITUTE DECISION AND TO URGE ONCE AGAIN
THE EARLY REMOVAL OF SAIAS (REFTEL.) MARIO SOARES
REQUESTED, AND STATE SECRETARY CARDOSO AND THE CDS AGREED
TO DELAY RESOLUTION OF THE CEREALS INSTITUTE PROBLEM
UNTIL NEXT WEEK.

2. A SERIOUS PROBLEM: FREITAS DO AMARAL IN A JUNE 22
TELEVISION INTERVIEW SAID THAT "IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES"
EXIST BETWEEN THE CENTER DEMOCRATS AND THE GOVERNMENT ON
AGRICULTURE. HE SAID THE CDS HAD PRESENTED ITS VIEWS ON
NUMEROUS OCCASIONS TO THE SOCIALIST PARTY AND TO THE
AGRICULTURE MINISTRY; SOME PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN RESOLVED
AND "WE ARE CERTAIN THAT THE REMAINING PROBLEMS WILL BE
RESOLVED THROUGH DIALOGUE." CDS SECRETARIAT MEMBER LUCAS
PIRES TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 23 THAT DIFFERENCES WITH THE
AGRICULTURE MINISTER WERE A SERIOUS PROBLEM AND THE OUTCOME
WOULD DETERMINE WHICH PARTY HAD THE ASCENDANT ROLE IN
GOVERNMENT.

3. COMMENT: THE COALITION PARTNERS HAVE DIFFERED OVER
AGRICULTURAL POLICY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER ARNAUT'S
PROPOSAL FOR A NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, AND OVER EDUCATION
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MINISTRY POLICIES. TWO CONTROVERSIAL EDUCATION STATE
SECRETARIES ROMERO DE MAGALHAES AND ALMERINDO MARQUES
RESIGNED EARLIER THIS WEEK TO ALLEVIATE THE EDUCATIONAL
PROBLEM AND THE DIFFERING PS AND CDS APPROACHES TO A
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ARE BEING NEGOTIATED. GIVEN THE
ANTI-SAIAS CAMPAIGN BEING WAGED BY THE PORTUGUESE
FARMERS' CONFEDERATION AND THE CONSERVATIVE PRESS, THE
CENTER DEMOCRATS COULD ONLY BACK DOWN ON AGRICULTURE
AT A SUBSTANTIAL COST TO THEIR INTERNAL COHESION AND
BASE OF SUPPORT. THE ISSUE HAS NOW BEEN DRAWN. IT DOES
NOT YET THREATEN THE GOVERNMENT, BUT WILL HAVE TO BE
DEALT WITH SOON.
BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LISBON04665
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780263-0750
Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780626/aaaaawmp.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ea83a182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LISBON 4499
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2229408
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PS-CDS DIFFERENCES OVER AGRICULTURE MINISTRY GROW
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ea83a182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014